

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'

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IMPRISONMENT AND ESCAPE OF P. P. PRATT, DURING THE PERSECUTION IN MISSOURI, 1838.

(Continued from our last.)

THE prison at Columbia was situated in the same square with the Court-house, being on the north edge of the town. Between it and the wilderness, where our friends held the horses in waiting, there were several fields and fences, say for the distance of half a mile; consisting of meadow and pasture land, and all in full view of the town. The prison consisted of a block house, two stories high, with two rooms below and two above. The keeper and his family occupied one end, and the other was used as the prison. The only entrance into it being through the lower room of the dwelling part, which was occupied by the family, and then up a steep flight of stairs, at the head of which was a heavy oaken door, ironed, locked and bolted as if to secure a Bonaparte or a Samson. On the inside of this was still another door, which was but slender, with a square hole near the top of sufficient size to hand in the food and dishes of the prisoners.

The large heavy door had always to be opened when food, drink, or other articles were handed in; and while open, the inner door served as a temporary guard to prevent prisoners from escaping, and was not always opened on such occasions, the food being handed through the hole in the top of the door, while the door itself remained locked. However, as a fortunate circumstance for us, the coffee-pot when filled would not easily slip through the hole in the door, and, rather than spill the coffee and burn his fingers, the keeper would sometimes unlock and open the inner door, in order to set in this huge and obstinate pot; and once in, the door would immediately close, and the key be turned, while the outer door would perhaps stand open till the supper was finished, and the dishes handed out, (for, by the bye, we fared better there than in the Richmond prison.)

Now our whole chance of escape depended on the question, whether the inner door would be opened that evening, or the coffee-pot squeezed in at the hole in the top. Mrs. Phelps and Mrs. Gibbs were in the upper room of the keeper's apartment, near the head of the stairs, and only a log or timber partition between us and them, and several open crevices in the same, so that we could easily communicate with them. One of them was waiting the issue of the great scene about to be acted, with almost breathless interest, and feverish anxiety, as on the good or ill success of that moment depended her future hopes through life, while the other was totally ignorant of the whole affair. In a far corner of our prison, sat Luman, the old apostate, entirely ignorant of the whole plan, and with no other anxiety than a slight wish for the sun to go down, that he might enjoy his supper and the society of his dear "Phila," in his curtained bed in the upper room, while we were locked in the dungeon below, to sleep on an oak floor, amid cobwebs and filth.

The citizens of the town were now some of them gathering in small groups outside of their doors to enjoy the quiet of a summer evening, to smoke a cigar, or chat over the merits of the celebration; while others were on horseback to enjoy an evening's ride, or to return to their homes. Bands of music, or rather an occasional beat of the drum, or blast of the bugle, was still to be heard in the distance; while a few soldiers, or rather militia in uniform, were hurrying to and fro. Groups of boys were playing about the square, and last though not least, our flag was still on high, with "Liberty" and the eagle in bold colours waving to the night breeze. This had so attracted the attention of the little fellows, that once and again they begged of us to make them a present of it; but we told them we could not spare it till the next morning; the fact is, we were not willing to surrender our castle before the time, or till we made good our retreat.

As the sun began to decline behind the long range of forest which bounded the western horizon, and the lengthened shadows of the tall trees were thrown over our prison, we called upon the Lord to prosper us and open our way, and then sang aloud the following lines:

Lord, cause their foolish plans to fail,
And let them faint or die:
Our souls would quit this poor old jail,
And fly to Illinois.
To join with the embodied Saints,
Who are with freedom blest;
That only bliss for which we pant,
With them awhile to rest.
Give joy for grief—give ease for pain,
Take all our foes away;
But let us find our friends again,
In this eventful day.

These lines were sung several times over with the spirit and with the understanding also, and very loud and distinct, being heard by the old apostate and his wife, and by the keepers of the prison; but the doctrine of spiritualizing had become so prevalent, that neither this nor the flag of liberty, nor any other scripture seemed to them to have any literal meaning, till they found too late the true interpretation by the fulfilment.

The sun was now setting, and the footsteps of the old keeper were heard on the stairs—the key turned, the outer door grated on its huge hinges, while at the same moment we sprang upon our feet, hat and coats on (rather an unusual dress for a hot day in July, for, by the bye, my hat proved to be a fur cap, which I wore when first taken in November previous), and stood by the door to act the part of waiters in receiving the dishes and food for supper, and placing them on the table. Dish after dish was handed in through the small aperture in the door, and duly received and placed upon the table by us, with as much grace and as calm countenances as if we thought of nothing else but our suppers. And I will now venture to say that famishing men never watched the movements of a coffee pot with more anxiety than we did on this occasion. At length the other dishes all being handed in, the huge pot made its appearance in the hole, in the top of the door, but one of us cried out to the keeper—"Colonel, you will only spill the coffee by attempting to put it through, besides, it burns our fingers; it will be more convenient to unlock and hand it in at the door." With this it was lowered down again, and the key turned on the inner door.

In this, as in most other fields of battle, where liberty and life depend on the issue, every one understood the part assigned to him and exactly filled it. Mr. Follett was to give the door a sudden pull, and fling it wide open the moment the key was turned. Mr. Phelps being well skilled in wrestling was to press out foremost, and come in contact with the jailer; I was to follow in the centre, and Mr. Follett, who held the door, was to bring up the rear, while sister Phelps was to pray.

No sooner was the key turned than the door was seized by Mr. Follett with both hands; and with his foot placed against the wall, he soon opened a passage, which was, in the same instant filled by Mr. Phelps, and followed by myself and Mr.

Follett. The old jailer strode across the way, and stretched out his arms, like Bunnyan's Apollion, or like the giant Despair in *Doubting Castle*, but all to no purpose. One or two leaps brought us to the bottom of the stairs, carrying the old gentleman with us headlong, helter skelter, while old Luman sat and laughed in his corner of the prison, and Mrs. Phelps exclaimed, "O Lord God of Israel, thou canst help." Old Mrs. Gibbs looked on in silent amazement, while the jailer's wife acted the part of the giant Despair's wife Diffidence, and not only assisted in the scuffle, but cried out so loud that the town was soon alarmed. In the mean time we found ourselves in the open air, in front of the prison and in full view of the citizens, who had already commenced to rally, while Mr. Phelps and the jailer still clinched fast hold of each other like two mastiffs. However, in another instant he cleared himself, and we were all three scampering off through the fields towards the thicket.

By this time the town was all in motion. The quietness of the evening was suddenly changed into noise and bustle, and it was soon evident that the thrilling scenes of the great drama of the 4th of July, and of the Columbian celebration of liberty were yet to be acted. The streets on both sides of the fields where we were running, were soon thronged with soldiers in uniform, mounted riflemen, footmen with fence stakes, clubs, or with whatever came to hand, and with boys, dogs, &c., all running, rushing, screaming, swearing, shouting, bawling, and looking, while clouds of dust rose behind them. The cattle also partook of the general panic and ran bellowing away, as if to hide from the scene. The fields behind us also presented a similar scene. Fences were leaped or broken down with a crash, men, boys, and horses came tumbling over hedge and ditch, rushing with the fury of a whirlwind in the chase, but we kept our course for the thicket, our toes barely touching the ground, while we seemed to leap with the fleetness of a deer, or as the young hart upon the mountains.

Our friends who had stood waiting in the thicket, had watched the last rays of the sun as they faded away, and had observed the quiet stillness of the evening as it began to steal over the distant village where we were confined, and had listened with almost breathless anxiety for the first sound which was to set all things in commotion, and which would say to them in language not to be misunderstood, that the struggle had commenced. For some moments after the last golden beam had disappeared, they listened in vain. The occasional lowing of a cow as she came home from the woodland pasture, impatient for her calf and the milkmaid to ease her of her rich burthen, the mingled sound of human voices in the distance in common conversation, the merry laugh of the young beaus and their sweethearts, the quiet song of the whiperwill, mingled with the merry notes of the violin, the thrill of the bugle, or the soft and plaintive notes of the flute, stole upon the silence of the evening, and were occasionally interrupted by the clatter of hoofs, as a few of the citizens were retiring from the enjoyments of a public day to their own peaceful homes in the country. These, and the beatings of their anxious and almost bursting hearts, were the only sounds which fell upon their ear, till suddenly they heard a rumbling and confused noise, as of footsteps rushing down the stairs of a prison, then a shrill cry of alarm from Mrs. Diffidence, the giantess, and soon followed by the shouts and rush of men, dogs, horses, and prisoners towards the spot where they were located. They then sprang forward to the edge of the fields and ran back again to the horses, and again returned, as if the using of their own limbs would serve to add nimbleness to those of the prisoners, and to quicken their speed.

As soon as the prisoners drew near, they were hailed by their friends, and conducted to the horses. They were breathless and nearly ready to faint, but in a moment they were assisted to mount, and a whip and the reins placed in their hands, while the only words interchanged were—"Fly quickly, they are upon you!" "Which way shall we go?" "Where you can; you are already nearly surrounded." "But what will you do, they will kill you if they cannot catch us." "We will take care of ourselves; fly, fly, I say, instantly." These words were exchanged with the quickness of thought, while we were mounting and reining our horses, in another instant we were all separated from each other, and each one was making the best shift he could for his own individual safety.

I had taken about the third jump with my horse, when I encountered a man rushing upon me with a rifle, and taking aim at my head he said, "God damn you, stop, or I'll shoot you." He was then only a few paces from me, and others were rushing close in his rear, but I turned my horse quickly in another direction, and rushed with all speed into the thickest of the forest, followed for some minutes by him and his dog, but I soon found myself alone, while I could only hear the sound of distant voices, the rushing of horsemen in every direction, with the barking of dogs. What had become of my companions or our friends I knew not. I rode on at full speed for a mile or more, when the woods terminated, and no alternative was left for me but to go either to the right or to the left into one of the public highways where I would be every moment exposed to my pursuers, or go over the fence and pass through the open fields to the wilderness beyond, or on the other hand to turn back into the heart of the forest, partly towards the town and prison from whence I had escaped. As horses' feet and men's voices were already heard along the highways which lay on each side of me, I determined upon the latter. I therefore changed my course, took my back track, and plunged into the depth of the forest. I then dismounted, tied my horse in a thicket, walked some distance from him and climbed a tree, intending to wait in this situation amid the concealment of the thick foliage till the darkness of evening would enable me to proceed with safety. Seating myself in one of its forked branches, and placing my arms in two other similar forks, I was supported from falling, although in a moment after I had ceased my exertions, I fainted away. In this situation I remained for some time, without the least power to change my position or help myself; my breath was gone through over exertion, and my mouth and throat parched with a burning thirst, my stomach sickened, and as I began again to breathe, I was seized with vomiting and threw up nearly all the food which my stomach contained. I then gradually recovered my strength till I could speak, when I began to call on the Lord, saying, "O Lord, strengthen me this once, deliver me from my persecutors and bring me in safety to a land of liberty, and I will praise thy name and give thee all the glory, and the remnant of my days shall be wholly devoted to thy service, for surely my life is now at stake, and if preserved, it is thy gift, therefore I shall owe it all to thee."

The darkness of evening was now fast setting in, and every moment seemed to increase my safety and security from immediate discovery, although I could still hear the distant sound of tramping horses, and the voices of men and dogs in pursuit, and sometimes so near that I could distinguish some of their words. It was a dark and moonless evening, the sky was only lighted by the glimmer of a few stars, partly obscured by the clouds and the thick foliage of the forest, increased the gloom and served to render the darkness nearly complete. I now came down from the tree and felt my way to the place where I had tied my horse, but as good or ill luck would have it, he had loosed himself and gone, leaving me to my fate. I then groped my way amid the dark shades of the forest to a small stream of warm muddy water, and stooping down, partly quenched my thirst. Probably in this act of stern necessity I was the murderer of some scores of insects. I then made my way to the highway and commenced my journey on foot, carefully watching on either hand lest I should be surprised and taken.

I was an entire stranger to the country, having no guide but the polar star. My road lay nearly northward, and upwards of a hundred miles of a wild country, peopled only by enemies, still lay between me and a State where the principles of freedom yet prevailed in a sufficient degree to insure my safety. If I could make my way through this wilderness of enemies, on foot, after the weakness and debility caused by eight months confinement, and after the fatigues of my evening's race, and neither enquire the way nor make my appearance at any house for entertainment and refreshment, then I should still have the great Mississippi river to ferry over, and be liable to be discovered and retaken in the act, while in sight of liberty. The thoughts of these dangers, the anxious enquiries of my mind as to what had become of my fellow prisoners and friends, which I had no means of satisfying, and the hopes and expectations of soon meeting and embracing my family and friends in a land of liberty, alternately occupied my mind as I slowly pursued my solitary way during that dark, and to me, eventful night.

(To be concluded in our next.)

BALANCE SHEET OF THE BRITISH AND AMERICAN COMMERCIAL JOINT STOCK COMPANY.

Dr.	CASH RECEIVED FROM		CONTRA. CASH PAID TO	Cr.			
May, 1845.	£.	s.	d.	May, 1845.	£.	s.	d.
				8, Mr. Rowe, solicitor, on account.....	6	0	0
				17, Wm. Shaw, stationer, for district account books as per bill, he allowed 10 per cent. discount.....	5	7	0
				7, T. D. Brown's expenses to Manchester as per order	0	0	0
				Thomas Wilson's ditto.....	0	19	0
				20, Thos. Ward's expenses to Manchester for Joint Stock Company	0	8	0
				28, Postage Stamps for T. Ward	0	5	0
June.				June.			
6, John Druce, Manchester ...	7	7	0	6, Lent T. Wilson, on account of salary	2	0	0
A. M'Gaffin, Liverpool.....	14	0	0	8, Postage Stamps for T. Ward	1	0	0
Wm. Speakman, Clithero...	9	17	0	July.			
James Clithero, Preston...	5	3	0	11, Lent T. Wilson on account of salary	2	0	0
Thos. Smith, Worcester ...	20	0	0	26, Lent T. Ward, ditto.....	2	0	0
— Swadlincote, Leicester	2	12	0	Lent T. Wilson, ditto.....	2	0	0
John Spencer, Leicester ...	2	9	6	September.			
— — Bradford.....	15	0	0	22, Lent T. Ward, ditto.....	3	0	0
James Phillips	0	1	0	Lent T. Wilson, ditto	2	0	0
Richard Casson	0	1	0	24, Mr. Rowe, solicitor, on account	10	0	0
Jas. Hughes, Leominster..	0	2	0	James and Woodburn on account of stationery and printing	15	6	8
Chs. Layton, Herefordshire	5	6	0	Reuben Hedlock, one year's rent in advance for office of this company.....	20	0	0
7, Henry Fowles, Bedford ...	1	0	0	October.			
9, Wm. Henshaw, Merthyr...	4	0	0	11, T. Wilson on account of salary.....	2	0	0
Jas. White, Tetbury, Chalford Hill, Herefordshire..	1	7	0	14, T. Wilson, balance of salary allowed by the directors to this date, £15 0 0...	5	0	0
24, John Alder, Cheltenham...	15	0	0	T. Ward, balance of salary same date, £15 0 0.....	10	0	0
30, Wm. Mackay, Edinburgh...	5	9	0	16, DIRECTORS expenses attending a meeting in Liverpool:—			
July.				H. Crump, London	4	17	2
3, Wm. Gough, Hereford ...	2	10	0	J. Druce, Manchester	1	10	0
Rich. Eatough, Blackburn	5	18	0	J. Flint, Manchester	1	6	0
John Druce, Manchester...	2	13	0	R. Wiley, Liverpool.....	0	10	0
16, James Clithero, Preston...	5	10	0	T. D. Brown	0	0	0
August.				H. M'Ewen, Edinburgh ...	3	0	0
13, Henry Crump, London ...	7	10	0	Peter M'Cue, Glasgow ...	2	0	0
20, H. Campbell, Durham.....	1	0	0	M. Caruthers, Airdrie	2	0	0
Thomas Ord, ditto ...	1	0	0	Dinners for three days, &c.			
September.				Provisions, Cooking, &c.	4	10	0
2, Vincent Law, Sheffield ...	6	0	0	18, For use of knives and forks	0	5	0
6, Ebezr. Gillies, Sunderland	1	12	9				
16, Wm. Hulme, Dukinfield ...	6	1	0				
October.							
8, Henry Fowles, Bedford ...	2	0	0				
15, Peter M'Cue, Glasgow ...	10	13	0				
16, Henry M'Ewen, Edinburgh	4	10	8				
H. M'Ewen, Hunterfield...	1	7	6				
Carried forward...	£167	0	5	Carried forward...	£109	3	10

Dr.	CASH RECEIVED FROM	
<i>November.</i>		
	Brought forward...	£167 0 8
26,	John Druce, Manchester...	7 0 0
27,	Samuel Downes, ditto.....	5 0 0
<i>December.</i>		
2,	Samuel Downes, ditto.....	7 0 0
	Chas. Simpkins, Newton le Willows.....	3 8 0
8,	Wm. Hall, Chatburn	7 1 6
4,	Peter M'Cue, Glasgow ...	49 19 10½
10,	Mathew Caruthers, Airdrie	7 0 0
13,	Chs. Layton, Herefordshire	14 10 0
	Edinburgh Branch	2 8 0
	Path Head ditto	3 13 0
	Dundee ditto	0 10 0
15,	Henry Cuerden	1 3 6
	Joseph Morris, Dukinfield.	2 0 0
	William Stott, Oldham ...	8 10 0
	William Hulme, Dukinfield	5 2 0
	Saml. Downes, Manchester	13 10 0
	John Druce, ditto ...	1 0 0
31,	Henry Crump, London ...	8 12 6
<i>January, 1846.</i>		
7,	Vincent Law, Sheffield ...	4 0 0
10,	Peter M'Cue, Glasgow ...	10 0 0
	Saml. Downes, Manchester	13 10 0
20,	Henry Crump, London ...	4 0 0
<i>February.</i>		
3,	Abraham Marchant, Bath..	1 10 0
4,	Richd. Eatough, Blackburn	7 8 0
15,	Abraham Marchant, Bath..	2 15 0
28,	Ed. Horrocks, Macclesfield	1 10 0
	J. Hibbert, Macclesfield...	1 10 0
<i>March.</i>		
2,	Abstracts of Deed	0 4 7
	Jas. Hughes, Leominster...	1 0 0
6,	Thos. Smith, Worcester...	6 0 0
	Peter M'Cue, Glasgow ...	1 10 0
	Robt. Christie, Edinburgh	15 15 0
10,	Charles Layton, Cradley, Herefordshire	12 10 0
16,	Saml. Downes, Manchester	80 16 0
	J. Maxwell, Thornlie Bank	15 0 0
18,	Hy. Isherwood, Liverpool.	8 0 0
28,	Saml. Downes, Manchester	22 0 0
30,	R. Gresley, Baraley, Leistr.	5 0 0
31,	Henry Fowles, Bedford ...	3 0 0
<i>April.</i>		
1,	Wm. & Margaret Bradbury	4 0 0
	G. Whitehead, Birmingham	5 0 0
2,	Macclesfield Branch	4 14 0
	Joseph Hibbert, ditto.....	0 10 0
	George Robins, Hull	6 15 0
	Peter M'Cue, Glasgow ...	5 0 0
6,	John M'Lellan, Appen.....	0 10 0
8,	Thomas Taylor, junior.....	0 10 0
Carried forward...		£541 6 4½

CONTRA.	CASH PAID TO	Cr.
<i>November.</i>		
	Brought forward...	£109 8 10
5,	T. Wilson, on account of salary.....	2 0 0
6,	T. Ward, ditto	1 0 0
	S. Downes expenses from Manchester	0 16 0
20,	Mr. Rowe, attorney.....	20 0 0
<i>December.</i>		
1,	T. Ward on account of salary	1 7 6
2,	Mrs. T. Wilson, while he was in Yorkshire	1 0 0
8,	T. Ward, as salary	2 0 0
	Mr. Rowe, attorney on account.....	60 0 0
13,	R. Hedlock's expenses to Manchester	1 10 0
	T. Wilson's, ditto.....	1 10 0
	T. Ward's, ditto	1 10 0
29,	T. Wilson, on account of salary.....	4 0 0
<i>January, 1846.</i>		
27,	T. Ward, on account of salary.....	3 12 1½
<i>February.</i>		
11,	Mr. Rowe, attorney, on act	50 0 0
13,	Thos. Wilson, on account of salary	1 0 0
	James and Woodburn, for printing, &c.	20 0 0
28,	Thomas Wilson, on account of expenses	2 0 0
	£3 per R. Hedlock as per W. Woodruff, and £3 per Thomas Ward's expenses (unintelligible)	3 0 0
<i>March.</i>		
2,	Henry Cuerden's travelling expenses in Scotland with deed	6 0 0
	Henry Cuerden's expenses (first time) to London ...	12 0 0
25,	John Banks, for travelling	2 0 0
29,	Expenses of S. Downes's, journey, lodgings, &c. (not known where too).....	2 0 0
30,	Henry Cuerden, for services in procuring signatures to deed	4 0 0
<i>April.</i>		
2,	Thos. Wilson, for expenses in getting deed signed...	5 4 0
6,	Wm. Walker, for expenses in getting deed signed...	2 0 0
11,	T. Ward and John Banks's expenses to Manchester..	1 0 0
15,	Thos. Ward, for travelling procuring signatures ...	5 3 1
Carried forward...		£534 16 6½

BALANCE SHEET.

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Dr. CASH RECEIVED FROM			CONTRA. CASH PAID TO Cr.		
<i>April.</i>			<i>April.</i>		
	Brought forward...	£241 6 4½		Brought forward...	£294 16 6½
8,	John Enlon, Tranmere ...	40 0 0	18,	Mr. Rowe, attorney, on account	10 0 0
11,	Saml. Downes, Manchester	19 10 0		W. C. Dunbar, for travelling expenses.....	1 0 0
16,	Geo. Baddley, Middleport.	2 0 0	21,	Henry Cuerden's expenses (second time) to London, with the deed	6 0 0
	Thomas Smith, Worcester.	2 9 0	25,	Henry Cuerden's expenses (third time) to London... D. Candland to assist Sam. Downes on a mission ...	1 0 0
	Thos. Margetta, Leicester.	1 16 0	29,	Thos. Ward, for travelling expenses	0 12 0
22,	John Parkinson, Preston...	18 0 0		S. Downes, on account of salary.....	5 10 0
23,	Abraham Marchant, Bath..	2 19 9	<i>May.</i>		
	Margy. Dickinson, Preston	5 0 0	2,	Dnsk and travelling expenses for S. Downes ...	7 12 6
25,	Richard Hall, Liverpool...	1 0 0	11,	S. Downes, for travelling Sister Kennedy, Glasgow, debtor R. Hedlock, or T. Ward.....	10 0 0
	Joseph Hall, Liverpool ...	1 0 0	22,	H. Cuerden	3 0 0
28,	Saml. Downes, Manchester	29 10 0	23,	Mr. Rowe, attorney, on account	10 0 0
29,	Ditto ditto ...	21 0 0		Thos. Ward, on account of salary.....	2 0 0
	Ed. Horrocks, Macclesfield	5 0 0	<i>June.</i>		
	Thomas Smith, Worcester..	1 17 6	4,	John R. Isaac, for engraving the Seal of the Company	4 0 0
<i>May.</i>			5,	Mr. Rowe, attorney, the balance of account owing to complete registration Directors expenses for attending conference:—	74 0 0
2,	John Alder, Cheltenham...	9 8 11		H. Crump, London £5 19 0	
	Capt. Dan Jones, Wales ...	2 18 0		M. Caruthers, Gl. 3 10 0	
6,	Wm. Stawport, Newcastle	5 0 0		T. D. Brown, Liv. (since re-paid into the funds now in hand)... 0 19 6	
11,	Charles Miller, Bradford...	5 0 0		Thos. Ward, do. 3 0 0	
	Richard Cook, Stockport...	23 11 6		Peter M'Cue, do. 3 10 0	
14,	Thomas Smith, Worcester.	2 17 6		Cpt. D. Jones, do. 5 0 0	
	James M'Guffie, Liverpool	20 0 0		John Banks, do. 3 0 0	
21,	William Phillips, Merthyr..	1 17 0		Robt. Wiley, do. 3 0 0	
	John Halliday, Trowbridge	1 0 0		R. Hedlock, do. 3 0 0	
28,	Carlisle Branch	1 5 1		James Flint, do. 3 0 0	
	Alston ditto	1 15 0		Thos. Wilson, do. 3 0 0	
	Sunderland ditto	2 7 3		S. Downes, do. 3 0 0	
30,	Peter M'Cue, Glasgow ...	10 11 6		L. Brockbank, do. 3 0 0	
	W. Cameron, Dunbar, Glas.	6 0 0		J. A. James, do. 2 0 0	
	Thos. Margetta, Leicester.	2 18 0		To Directors one conference and meeting.....	44 16 6
<i>June.</i>					
1,	William Phillips, Merthyr ..	7 7 6			
	E. Horrocks, Macclesfield..	9 16 0			
	Henry Crump, London ...	9 10 0			
2,	James Ure, Sheffield	11 0 0			
	Ditto ditto	2 0 0			
	George Robins, Louth.....	3 10 0			
	Ditto Hull	1 4 0			
	Wm. Walker, Birmingham	1 0 0			
	J. Halliday, Trowbridge.	2 0 0			
	Henry Arnold, Mars Hill...	4 18 6			
4,	Mathew Caruthers, Airdrie	7 0 0			
6,	Martha Wragg, Liverpool	2 10 0			
	Eln. Waterland, Birmingham	3 0 0			
	Saml. Downes, Manchester	80 16 6			
	Abraham Marchant, Bath..	2 0 0			
10,	Thomas Smith, Worcester.	4 15 0			
	H. Campbell, B. Auckland,				
	Carlisle	1 0 0			
12,	Thomas Smith, Worcester.	5 0 0			
	Robt. Christie, Edinburgh.	9 0 0			
	T. Ord, near Darlington...	1 0 0			
23,	John Dudley, Pool Quay,				
	North Wales	5 0 0			
	Mrs. Dudley, ditto	2 0 0			
	Richard Hall, Liverpool ...	0 16 0			
25,	Thomas Smith, Worcester.	4 17 0			
28,	Jos. Hibbert, Macclesfield..	3 0 0			
Carried forward...£267 18 10½			Carried forward...£215 10 6½		

Dr. CASH RECEIVED FROM		CONTRA. CASH PAID TO Cr.	
<i>June.</i>		<i>June.</i>	
Brought forward... £967 18 10½		Brought forward... £515 10 6½	
<i>July.</i>		<i>July.</i>	
2, Charles Miller, Bradford...	5 0 0	6, S. Downes, on account of salary.....	4 10 0
William Phillips, Merthyr..	6 12 6	9, H. Cuerden, for services...	2 0 0
3, Glaude Roger, Chesterfield	10 0 0	12, S. Downes, salary.....	5 0 0
Thos. Margetts, Leicester..	10 0 0	19, S. Downes, salary	1 10 0
William Bunker, London...	4 0 0	22, H. Cuerden, salary	0 16 0
Peter M'Cue, Glasgow ...	25 0 0	24, S. Downes, salary	2 0 0
11, Robt. Christie, Edinburgh	11 4 0	<i>July.</i>	
Wm. Brewerton, Hull.....	6 0 0	2, H. Cuerden	0 10 0
13, William Benn, Liverpool...	6 0 0	S. Downes.....	3 0 0
George Wild, Fleetwood...	2 0 0	4, H. Cuerden, for travelling expenses	1 0 0
Daniel Holding, Shropshire	5 0 0	8, S. Downes, salary	0 10 0
John Enion, for Tranmere Branch	2 19 6	S. Downes, for travelling expenses	7 0 0
24, David Candland, Manchester	26 13 0	13, S. Downes, on account of salary.....	4 0 0
Thomas Smith, Worcester.	4 0 0	T. Wilson, on account of salary.....	15 19 6
T. Nicholson, Crewe, Staff.	2 7 6	17, Henry Cuerden's travelling expenses	1 0 0
27, W. Frodsham, Prescott, per T. Wilson	1 0 0	21, Thomas Ward, salary	5 0 0
Ditto, 21st April, per T. Ward	1 0 0	22, Waring Webb, of Liverpool, for Ledger.....	2 4 6
31, W. Smith, Preston, per H. Cuerden	4 0 0	25, Mrs. Downes, on account of S. Downes's salary	0 10 0
Ditto, per T. Wilson	19 0 0	27, Thomas Wilson	1 0 0
T. Salisbury, per T. Wilson	9 11 0	31, Henry Cuerden	4 0 0
<i>August.</i>		Ditto.	1 0 0
1, Joseph Taylor, Bollington, Macclesfield	20 0 0	<i>August.</i>	
11, Capt. Dan Jones, S. Wales	6 8 0	3, James Bond, for wages ...	1 0 0
Thomas Smith, Worcester.	5 0 0	4, Mr. R. James, for printing and stationery	37 6 0
18, Wm. Bayliss, Birmingham.	30 0 0	6, Margery Dickinson, Preston, for over-paid four shares in the company. (See Dr. side, April 23)...	1 0 0
19, Four pair Razors at 2s. 6d.	0 10 0	11, Taylor and Cooper, for office fixtures, desks, and utensils, as per account..	25 0 0
20, Thos. Ord, New Sheldon, Carlisle	2 0 0	Mr. Rowe, attorney, as per account	2 2 8
21, Thos. Margetts, Leicester..	16 0 0	S. Downes, on account of salary	7 0 0
Joseph Mathews, Swansea.	1 0 0	15, James Bond, on account...	0 4 0
25, J. Halliday, Trowbridge...	1 17 0	19, Henry Thompson, of Sheffield, for razors, &c., as per invoice	3 13 8
Ditto, Bath ...	3 4 9½	22, J. Bamfield, for services... Postage Stamps	1 0 0 0 10 0
Ditto, ditto ...	3 4 9½	<i>September.</i>	
Ditto, ditto ...	3 4 9½	3, Mr. Samuel Downes	6 0 0
Ditto, ditto ...	3 4 9½	5, J. Bamfield, for services... James Bond, balance of two weeks wages, at 8s.....	0 17 0 0 12 0
Ditto, Bristol ...	3 6 0	<i>September.</i>	
Ditto, ditto ...	3 6 0	3, Mr. Samuel Downes	6 0 0
Peter M'Cue, Glasgow ...	16 11 6	5, J. Bamfield, for services... James Bond, balance of two weeks wages, at 8s.....	0 17 0 0 12 0
Geo. Eyre, Lincolnshire ...	21 0 0	<i>September.</i>	
Captain M'Pherson, of the "Zion's Hope"	3 0 0	3, Mr. Samuel Downes	6 0 0
<i>September.</i>		5, J. Bamfield, for services... James Bond, balance of two weeks wages, at 8s.....	0 17 0 0 12 0
7, Alex. Eckford, N. Wales	2 0 0	<i>September.</i>	
David Marshall, Chester...	2 0 0	3, Mr. Samuel Downes	6 0 0
Joseph Ellis, Ewloe, North Wales	1 0 0	5, J. Bamfield, for services... James Bond, balance of two weeks wages, at 8s.....	0 17 0 0 12 0
Carried forward... £1277 4 1½		Carried forward... £664 5 10½	

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CENTRAL. CASH PAID TO		£s.
September.		
Brought forward...		£884 5 10½
5, T. Wilson, on ac't. of salary		19 0 0
Ditto, ditto ...		9 11 0
11, H. Cuerden, on account...		0 10 0
J. Bond, one week's wages		0 8 0
17, Expenses of obtaining a Passenger Broker's License for T. Ward.....		0 8 0
Postage to Miramichi		0 1 2
19, H. Cuerden, for travelling expenses with deed		9 14 0
21, S. Downes, for travelling expenses		5 0 0
Postage Stamps		0 10 0
24, For one ream of paper.....		0 9 0
Liverpool Journal for advertising		0 6 6
Liverpool Mercury ditto...		0 7 6
Mr. Jenkins's expenses of the valuation at Stanley Buildings		2 17 4
Mr. Rowe, attorney, for Drawing a new lease of premises		0 10 0
James Bond, for wages.....		0 8 0
J. Bamfield, ditto		0 12 0
Steel pens, sample botls, &c		0 5 6
Postages paid Mr. Wragg		0 4 2
Lent to R. Hedlock (?)...	403	0 0
James M'Guffie, what R. Hedlock owed him		13 15 0
25, One quarter's rent in advance for office.....		18 10 0
26, James Bond's salary		0 8 0
T. Ward, on ac't. of salary		10 11 3½
27, Expenses incurred by S. Downes, in Manchester Conference, as follows:		
Account Books for the Manchester Conference, form April 17th, 1845, to April 25, 1846	£1	13 9
Writing Paper & pens	0	4 4
Postage of Letters and Documents	0	10 4
Carriage & Post-office Orders...	0	4 9
J. Druce's petty cash account...	0	2 3
January, 1846.		
31, J. Flint's expenses to Duckinfield to get deed signed	£0	1 3
March, 1846.		
6, J. Flint, ditto second time	0	2 6
Carried forward		2 19 2
Carried forward...		£1167 12 4

March, 1846.

CREDIT SIDE CONTINUED.

CASH PAID TO

Brought forward	£1187	12	4
Expenses of Manchester Conference by S. Downes, brought forward from page 153	£2	19	2
15, Expenses of R. Hedlock, S. Downes, & J. Flint, in Manchester	0	15	0
23, J. Dunn's expenses to Rochdale with deed.....	0	7	0
April.			
18, H. Cuerden and G. Dunbar, for lodgings in Manchester	0	3	6
23, G. Dunbar's expenses to Ashton.....	0	2	0
March.			
15, H. Druce, for J. Druce's money lent on books to W. Woodruff as per order of R. Hedlock	3	0	0
Railway, Coach Fare, and other expenses incurred by Samuel Downes, in visiting Bolton, Bury, Tottington, Pendlebury, Ashton, Oldham, Newton, Moor, Dukinfield, Shaw, Rochdale, Stockport, Cross Moor, and other places, and part of the time in company with Cuerden and Dunbar	10	18	6
Manchester conference. Total	18	5	2
September, 1846.			
28, S. Downes, on account of salary	25	0	0
October.			
1, Postage Stamps	0	6	0
2, Lock and key for office drawer.....	0	6	0
J. R. Isaac, for New Die Press, for working the Seal of the Company...	7	0	0
S. Downes, on account of salary.....	14	0	0
Petty Cash Book	0	2	6
Postage of Circulars, Wafers, and Railway Guide	0	3	4
James Bond, for Gum	0	0	6
3, Scissors, Star, and Letter	0	1	2½
J. Hibbert's expenses for attending in Liverpool to sign bond	0	19	0
J. Flint, Liverpool, for the same.....	0	4	0
T. Wilson, on account of salary	5	0	0
James Bond ditto.....	0	8	0
10, Mr. John Enion, loan returned.....	40	0	0
Mr. O. Hyde, for Mr. James M'Guffie	20	0	0
Thos. Wilson, for Postage Stamps for circulars calling a Meeting of Shareholders	4	0	0
Samuel Downes, balance of salary	0	17	8
13, Mr. James, for Printing, &c.	9	1	6
Disbursements in Petty Cash Book	6	9	8½
Mr. Orson Hyde, balance in Bank.....	190	0	0
13, L. N. Scovill, to be paid by Mr. O. Hyde.....	23	0	0
16, Mr. Orson Hyde, balance of cash in hand.....	5	9	3
21, Joseph Cain, for Mr. Orson Hyde, another balance of cash	4	12	2
24, Expenses of Thomas Ward and Thomas Wilson to the meeting in Manchester for dissolution	4	0	0
25, Mr. Orson Hyde, another balance of cash	2	0	0
Profits owing on Emigration, paid to T. Ward	1	10	0
Book and Postage Stamps sold Mr. L. N. Scovill, for Mr. Orson Hyde...	0	10	0
Balance in hands of Samuel Downes, since paid to Mr. O. Hyde.....	0	9	11½
Carried forward	£1551	8	3½

Dr.	CASH RECEIVED FROM	
October, 1846.		
Brought forward...	£1556	9 0½
Cash collected by R. Hedlock not included in the above:		
— Rowhill, Glasgow	9	10 0
R. Wiley, Liverpool.....	12	0 0
James M'Gaffin, Liverpool	4	0 0
J. Farrington, Liscard.....	5	0 0

Carried forward... £1579 19 0½

CONTRA.	CASH PAID TO	Cr.
October, 1846.		
Brought forward...	£1551	8 3½
Collected by R. Hedlock ...	88	7 0

Carried forward... £1639 15 3½

REPORT ON THE BALANCE SHEET.

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Dr. CASH RECEIVED FROM

October, 1846.

Brought forward...	£1579	19	0½
Sheffield	6	0	0
Bradford	20	0	0
D. Candland, Manchester	24	0	0
Mary Godd, Stockport ...	8	0	0
Alexander Brown	1	0	0
Thomas Wood.....	0	5	0
John Roberts	0	5	0
Clitheroe	5	7	0

£1644 16 0½

9, To Amount of Cash Received	£1644	16	0½
By Ditto ditto Paid, lent and lost.....	1418	14	8

Balance in the hands of Mr. O. Hyde £226 1 4½

CONTRA. CASH PAID TO

Cr.

October, 1846.

Brought forward...	£1639	15	3½
Error in Book	0	0	9
James M'Guffie	5	0	0
This was sent from Manchester, by R. Hedlock, for ship's detention money, but was paid with the funds of this Company.			

£1644 16 0½

ABSTRACT OF MONEY RECEIVED FROM THE

Manchester Conference	£422	14	8	s. d.
Ditto to R. Hedlock ...	32	0	0	454 14 8
Liverpool Conference.....	50	7	6	
Ditto to R. Hedlock ...	21	0	0	71 7 6
London Conference.....				33 12 6
Leicester Conference.....				54 0 6
Macclesfield Conference..				62 6 0
Birmingham Conference..				61 1 3
Hull, Louth, &c., ditto ...				88 14 0
Bath, Bristol & Trowb'dg.				42 17 3
Bradford Conference	33	0	0	
Ditto to R. Hedlock ...	20	0	0	53 0 0
Hereford Conference				41 13 6
Bedfordshire ditto				6 0 0
Worcestershire ditto				53 18 6
Cheltenham ditto.....				39 7 4
Leamington ditto.....				4 10 0
Lincolnshire ditto				21 0 0
Staffordshire ditto				6 19 6
Preston ditto.....				64 18 6
Clitheroe Conference	24	16	6	
Ditto to R. Hedlock ...	5	7	0	30 3 6

Carried forward.....£1190 4 6

Brought forward	£1190	4	6
Blackburn ditto			5 18 0
Sheffield Conference	40	11	6
Ditto to R. Hedlock ...	6	0	0
Carlisle Conference.....			17 0 1
Chesterfield Branch			10 0 0
Glasgow Conference	162	5	10½
Ditto to R. Hedlock ...	2	10	0
Edinburgh Conference ...			53 17 2
Greenock Branch			5 9 3
Port Glasgow, per Captain M'Pherson			3 0 0
South Wales Conference..			53 7 0
North Wales ditto			13 0 0
Shropshire, & D. Holden.			5 0 0
J. Salisbury, & T. Wilson,			
Conference unknown ...			9 11 0
W. and M. Bradley, ditto			4 0 0
H. Cuerden ditto.....			1 3 6
Phillips and Casson, ditto			0 2 0
Not enumerated			59 16 2

£1644 16 0½

Brethren, Sisters, and Friends.—We have patiently revised and laid before you this Balance Sheet and Abstract of the business of the British and American Commercial Joint Stock Company, since its dissolution; and in accordance with our duty and our instructions in winding up the affairs of the same, we now proceed to the most painful part of our duty, and lay before you our

REPORT.

It is evident on looking to the amount of the Debt side of the preceding account, that Thirteen Hundred and Forty-four Pounds, Sixteen Shillings and One Half-penny have been received from the over-sanguine shareholders, for purposes which, alas! have not been realized by them, viz., the advancement and rolling on of the work and kingdom of God, and the benefit of the Saints and the shareholders as individuals.

When we look at the Credit side of our account, and see that Fourteen Hundred and Eighteen Pounds, Fourteen Shillings and Eight Pence have been expended, spent, squandered, devoured—and not the first—the least object of our desires attained, realised, or accomplished, how inexpressible is our sorrow and regret! Tell the amount thereof, ye widowed mothers who have subscribed your all, even that which you, and those who have been removed from you, had collected in much labour and sorrow, and by great diligence and economy, to assist in establishing your sons in trade, from the profits of whose honest industry, you had hoped to be nourished and fed; and ye maidens and young men, who participate in this loss, tell us, if ye can, how many extra hours ye have toiled over the midnight lamp to increase your hard won weekly income, and the extent of your self-denial, to save your pence and your silver, that you might add to the funds of this association, thereby increasing your hopes, believing, that one day, and that ere long, you too, in your turn, would be removed from your penury, to mix with the sons of God and share in the sufferings and blessings of the “children of Zion?” Tell us the amount of your sorrow, and the extent of your disappointment, if ye can? In a measure we realise and participate the same, for we suffer alike. But after all we have written, there are private circumstances and trials in the aggregate of suffering now laid before you, which we shall probably never know, for “each heart knows its own sorrows.” One instance:—A shareholder, who had by great industry and care, saved £5 from his limited earnings of 7s. 6d. per week, walked forty miles and paid his little all for five shares, was soon after visited by fell disease. His mother first fell sick of fever, and died of ten days illness, his wife, who had recently been confined, was next the prey of this malignant typhus; she however was spared, but only to succumb the subject of our narrative, who was, by the same dire visitor, for fourteen weeks confined and unable to earn his bread! How much good would even all this have done in this abode of pain?

Before proceeding to make but a few remarks on what has been so palpably, prodigally, and profusely misused, abused, and squandered, and on those who have so evidently and deservedly rejected "the blessings of those that are ready to perish," and caused the widow's heart to bleed, and filled the orphan's eyes with tears of grief, we feel constrained to say, and our Father knows we speak the truth, we bear them as individuals no malice, but feel indignant at their conduct, and are, notwithstanding, ready to do all in our power to save them, when they repent and make restitution, if they can, or to the utmost of their power, to the satisfaction of Israel's God and his injured people, for says our Lord, "inasmuch as ye have done it to the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Proceed we. Five Hundred and Four Pounds, Twelve Shillings we perceive lent to Reuben Hedlock and collected by him, who, till lately, stood high in our esteem, and with it he has gone! Whither? To those from whom he received his authority, to render an account of his stewardship? No; and when they came, through the revelation and power of God, and searched him out, did he meet them with the candour and frankness of an honest but unfortunate man, and give up his books and estate? No; but is content with mocking them by evasion and falsehood—giving them orders to receive small sums of money due to him here, with which they might have paid debts for which he and others had left them responsible, and sending by the same mail countermanding orders, requesting the holders of these small sums of money not to pay them! and by sending anonymous letters full of falsehood. Oh, thou who art deeply dyed in hypocrisy, hide thy face in thy hand, and start when an honest man comes near thee.

With his other liabilities we have nothing to do, though four times the amount of the above. Let disappointed emigrants, defrauded creditors, a deserted wife, and helpless children tell how entangled the web he has woven.

Nearly Three Hundred Pounds more we behold devoured by avaricious Law! and Thomas Ward may tell whether this long account is just and correct, and the result of dire necessity. On making enquiry, we find that two out of three Joint Stock Societies here, obtained their "Complete Registration" for less than One Hundred and Fifteen Pounds!

Now come we to the condensed essence of expenditure, viz:—Salaries of the officers, their travelling expenses, and those of their superabundant assistants, and the allowance to Directors.

Thomas Ward, President, salary	£48 0 11	
And as a Director, for attending two conferences or meetings while he was an officer of the society, and received a salary	5 0 0	
Travelling expenses	9 13 1	£62 14 0
Thomas Wilson, Secretary, salary	73 10 6	
And as a Director or officer, in addition to salary, for attending two meetings	5 0 0	
Travelling expenses	9 13 0	88 3 6
Samuel Downes, the protege of Thomas Ward, primarily preacher of Joint Stockism, and secondarily, Treasurer for sixteen days. His salary	78 13 8	
Attending meeting of conference	3 0 0	
Travelling expenses	43 8 8	125 2 4
Paid to Directors at Liverpool meeting	15 3 2	
Paid to Directors at Manchester conference	44 18 6	60 1 8
Total paid to Directors—two meetings		57 19 0
Henry Cuerden, Joint Stock preacher the second, salary and travelling expenses		
Bamfield, Bond, and other office assistants		
Banks, Walker, Dunbar, Hibbert, Flint, Dunn, Candland, the other travelling assistants		13 14 9
Lent or paid to Reuben Hedlock		504 12 0
To Mr. Rowe, attorney, &c., for law	245 10 0	
And balance claimed by him	46 9 8	291 19 8
Books and Stationery, mostly not used		100 5 8
		£1304 12 7

We feel to commend the example of one of the Directors, T. D. Brown, in returning the 19s. 6d. he received for his travelling expenses to Manchester conference, to be imitated by the others, that thus, if possible, the dividend may be increased.

From our examination of the minutes and orders of the Directors, we find that two of the officers have overpaid themselves salaries, as follows:—

Thomas Wilson	£73 10 6	over paid	£10 0 10
Samuel Downes	78 13 8	over paid	27 17 11

The first order in the minutes on salaries, is as follows, dated October 14th, 1843:—

"Resolved, that Thomas Ward, who has filled the office of President, and Thomas Wilson, the Secretary, shall be paid the sum of fifteen pounds each, for their services to this date." There was no further salary allowed them till the Company was completely registered. See under date of 4th June, 1844, which second order for the same, reads thus:—"That the salary of the President (T. Ward) of this Company shall be one hundred pounds per annum, for the present, and that he shall have the privilege of conducting his own business, as editor, &c. And that T. Wilson, the Secretary to the said Company, shall have one hundred pounds per annum, salary, with permission to carry on his own private business, as shipping agent, &c." and that these salaries shall commence from the date of "Complete Registration," namely, the 27th day of April, 1844. And further, "That the three officers of this Company be paid for their services since last meeting in October, 1843, viz:—Messrs. Ward, Hedlock, and Wilson, and the amount shall be determined by the Liverpool Directors." This order was never complied with. The Liverpool Directors, we suppose, thought the officers sufficiently paid for the amount of business they had done, for we find no order in the minutes to carry out this last measure. Did T. Wilson think proper to help himself without their permission? We call upon him to return this £10 0 10, and if he has not the cash, and is wishful to have our fellowship, let him do what is right—sell the gaudy decorations he purchased while in office, even his gold watch, chain, ring, and pin, if necessary, and make restitution.

The only order for Samuel Downes's salary, and his first appointment by the Directors to act for the Company, reads thus, under the same date, 4th June, 1844:—"That Samuel Downes shall be employed as travelling agent for this Company, and that he shall have the sum of one hundred and forty pounds

per annum, salary, together with all necessary travelling expenses." And further, under date of 15th September, 1846:—"That S. Downes shall be the Treasurer to the British and American Commercial Joint Stock Company, without any additional salary than what he already has fixed upon him, and that he shall do this business in addition to his former travelling department as agent to this Company." The same observations, but with additional force, we apply to S. Downes, because the amount overdrawn £27 17 11 is greater. Let him also do what is just, and make restitution. Till they do so, we feel to recommend the Saints not to fellowship them. We admit he may argue he has been badly used, having been taken away from a situation where he had a fair weekly wage. Who has he to blame for this? Himself and an individual, not the Shareholders, nor the Directors as a body, for he was engaged in this travelling for some time before he received any appointment from them; but we cannot allow that he draw salary except such as is ordered, viz., from 4th June to 17th Oct., 1846. The rapacity, chicanery, and cunning of Thomas Wilson and Samuel Downes is manifest in the payments of salary made to them, or retained by them, on the eve of the dissolution of this Company, as follows:—

5, September, 1846.	Thomas Wilson on account of salary.....	£19 0 0
Do.	do. do.	9 11 0
21, Do.	Samuel Downes on account of travelling expenses	5 0 0
27, Do.	Sundries due to him for expenses in Manchester	15 5 2
	(This was the day he took possession of the Cash, and Books, as Treasurer.)	
28, Do.	do. On account of salary	25 0 0
2, October,	do. do. (Five days after).....	14 0 0
3, Do.	T. Wilson on account of salary.....	5 0 0
10, Do.	S. Downes balance of salary	0 17 8

Two officers in one month..... £93 13 10

Our friends arrived from America on the third of October. Did the western breezes waft the scent of their approach?

Nor is the natural weakness of Samuel Downes less manifest in his payments to his relations. J. Hibbert, of Macclesfield, for coming down to Liverpool, "to sign the deed," 19s., and J. Flint, who then lived in Liverpool, 4s., a day's wage also for calling to "sign the deed!"

In short, it has been throughout a system of plundering, spoliation, and favouritism. Thomas Ward, although himself apparently the least avaricious, favours the lawyer, Thomas Wilson, and Samuel Downes; and they assist and favour him and their friends, minions, and near of kin.

(See May 11th, 1846.) What right had Thomas Ward to pay Reuben Hedlock's debts with Joint Stock Company's money, Ten Pounds? (see Sept. 24,) or to lend Hedlock from the same funds Four Hundred and Three Pounds? Did the act of parliament or deed sanction or permit these? And we further regret that Downes should have used Three Pounds of Joint Stock money to pay debts on the church books in the office, (see March 15th), when there must have been enough of proceeds from the sale of these books to pay all just demands on them? Was economy observed in the conducting of this society's business in all things? Alas, no! (See May 2nd.) Travelling desk (we call upon S. D. to return this desk for sale) and expenses for Samuel Downes, Seven Pounds Twelve Shillings and Sixpence. O, pudore! pudore!! This is only one specimen of their prodigality from the credit side of the account before us. And here we further note that one, only one purchase, and only one sale is the amount of real business done by the officers of this commercial society—a purchase of razors—(see credit side 19th of August, 1846), cost Three Pounds Thirteen Shillings and Eightpence—and on the debit of the same date a sale of four pairs of the same merchandise for Ten Shillings—PROFIT? FORTY PENCE! and to gain this has cost the shareholders upwards of FOURTEEN HUNDRED POUNDS!!

We are credibly informed that the Directors, as a body, knew little or nothing of money matters, and, till this sheet is before them could form no idea of the amount that had been received and expended by the Officers. Were they purposely kept in the dark regarding these matters? Let the officers answer.

Again, were there no false statements and misrepresentations issued shortly before the dissolution of this Company to obtain more goods and money. See STAR No. 5, October 1st, 1846. The whole article from the pen of Samuel Downes may now be read with peculiar interest by way of contrast. He writes thus:—"My opinions with regard to the usefulness and certain success of this Company are not altered."—"I still believe it to be the most effectual means to be employed for gathering the poor to Zion."—"I find myself the honoured individual first to hold the office of Treasurer for the British and American Commercial Joint Stock Company."—"We are now about to open a store in Liverpool."—"Let the brethren and sisters think, and see if they cannot do something to fill up a blank shelf or two in the Joint Stock store in Liverpool."—"We shall make a call to pay off the expenses of establishing the Company; this, I may inform you, will not be heavy," (he might have added, "only 2s. per share" as I taught you in my lectures.) Did he not know it had cost upwards of £1300? He was then Treasurer and had the Cash Books in his hand, and knew they had done no business as yet. He proceeds thus:—"The time is not far off when it will be necessary for the Directors to meet the Shareholders to present a statement of the income and expenditure of the Society, also a list of its Profits and Losses for the first year of its operation."—"Hitherto by the help of God we have been enabled to triumph and overcome (!)"—"Let those take comfort who have been paying for their shares."—"The Society is going on as well as we could wish."—"I believe that the Directors are good men, doing their utmost, and that every one has been faithful to his trust, however much may have been said to the contrary."—"To the Shareholders I would say, set your shoulders to the wheel, assist us to the utmost; and if you do so you will be blessed, and have the blessings of thousands. Unborn generations will arise and look with delight on what we have done! Angels will praise us, the heavens will rejoice over us, and we shall have the inward satisfaction of having gathered the poor unto Zion, of having fed the hungry and clothed the naked, and also of having taken part in the rolling forth of the great work of Zion's King in the last days." Finally, "if great things are not done, it will be the fault of the shareholders in not having paid up their shares"!!!

Let it be observed here, that though some of the Directors have paid in their shares and lost heavily, proving that their unknown Treasurer had kept them in the dark about receipts and expenditure, not one shilling has been paid by any of the officers into the funds of this company on account of shares, as far as we see, thus tacitly admitting that they had no confidence in good results accruing generally to the Saints, but that they themselves were and would be benefitted.

We do not know why the expense, £15 5s. 2d. of the Manchester branch or Conference should have been extracted by our new Treasurer on this his first day of office, from the cash given him out of the general fund. See 27th September, 1846. All other conferences and branches bore their own expenses besides contributing to the capital, with which, indeed many such unwarrantable liberties have been taken.

We have copied our debtor side from the Cash Book but have no means of checking this to ascertain

the truth, and we request the Treasurer and Secretary of every branch to send us in a list and amount of the money collected by them, and to whom paid, with the dates; and after to return all their duplicate receipts, Cash Books, and other documents, with any remarks they may have to make on this balance sheet, pointing out errors or omissions, that in some following number of the STAR we may enter such corrections, then destroy all the documents that these records of folly and misdeeds may be forgotten, if possible, for ever.

We are thankful, and you must be sensible and grateful too, for the visit of the deputation from America; they have done a great and good work in a short time. May the blessings of Israel's God be ever theirs, and say you all, Amen. Each of them may repeat to their quorum "*Veni, Vidi, Vici*," which, being pluralized, amplified, and freely translated, reads, "We heard, we knew, we came and saw, we conquered."

By their timely arrival and aid we have saved a little, but there is yet a heavy balance of rent and of the Lawyer's bill unpaid, also some smaller accounts, and we require all Treasurers of conferences and branches that have balances on hand, to remit the same forthwith; and let all who have not yet "signed off" and returned their receipts, but who feel to do so, send them to us forthwith. A list of the names of those who are willing to sign off their interest in this Company is not enough; we must have the receipts also, if possible; and if there are any moneys paid by conferences or branches not acknowledged in the balance sheet, or included therein, please let us know the amount and circumstances of payment.

The Officers are blameable before God and the authorities of this church, because, when they knew that this company was not answering the purposes intended, they did not rise up like honest men and stop the growing evils, but were content to continue till nearly all the funds were devoured; and have thus rendered themselves unworthy of the future confidence of the Saints, and of any responsible trust hereafter in this kingdom.

Had it been for the good of the cause they laboured, they would not have been content to eat up and squander this capital without the most distant prospect of enabling the shareholders to realise their expectations, without apprising them of the true state of affairs before it was too late. The censure of the deputation, therefore, falls heavily but most deservedly, upon them in consideration of their delinquencies in these and other matters.

Mr. Orson Hyde has paid over all moneys into our hands, and our present feelings are, first, to pay all the debts and liabilities of this Company; secondly, to announce the dividend, if there be any; and thirdly, to remember the necessities of those who have left their families and homes in the wilderness far west, and who are soon about to leave us again, out of the dividends of those who have "signed off," sacrificed, and sent us in their receipts, and to this we feel you all are, or ought to be, agreeable; finally, may we all learn from the past and be wise, and speedily be gathered and rejoice together among the wise and good who have passed through great tribulation, and are where "their judges will be peace and their exaltors righteousness." Amen.

Signed by JAMES MARSDEN, President

On behalf of the Committee.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Somewhere about the early part of November last, the Rev. Mr. Baylee, parish minister of Birkenhead, addressed a note to some gentleman, not connected with the Latter-day Saints, expressing his readiness and desire to meet the Mormons or Latter-day Saints in discussion upon the merits of our religion and his own. The note was presented to us by a brother, and we were asked what we had to reply; our answer was "nothing; but if a note were addressed by him to us directly, we would notice it." Hence originated the following communications.

Clifton Park, Birkenhead, November 19th, 1846.

SIR,—Mr. Wm. Kent informed me this evening, that you had expressed your readiness to discuss the claims of the Mormonites or Latter-day Saints. For the sake of some of my parishioners, I am quite ready to meet you at any mutually convenient time, and to discuss the following points:—

1. The claim of the Book of Mormon and the other few books held sacred by you, to be a revelation from God.

2. Your claim to authority from God.

3. The evidence that the North American Indians are descended from the ten tribes.

If you choose to submit to such a test I am quite ready to provide a suitable room, and trust I shall be enabled to meet you as becomes a gentleman and a christian.

Truly yours,

JOSEPH BAYLEE.

To Mr. Orson Hyde.

6, Gores Piazza, Liverpool, Nov. 21st, 1846.

SIR,—Your note of the 19th instant is before me. Though I have not the pleasure of being personally known to you, still, I observed to Mr. Kent and others by whom a note was presented to me, addressed by you to some other gentleman, expressing your readiness to meet the Mormonites before the public to discuss the merits and claims of our religion and yours. I was asked what I had to say in reply. I replied, "nothing," but continued I, "if the note had been addressed to me, I would notice it."

Sir, without expressing at present my readiness, yea or nay, to meet you, allow me to ask you if you are as ready to submit your religion to the test and scrutiny of investigation, as you are to scrutinize and investigate mine? Your answer to this in the affirmative, will call forth the terms on which, in the name of the Lord, I am willing to meet you at a

time and place hereafter to be mutually agreed upon; for be it known that your religion has as little claim upon my credulity, as mine has upon yours. And further, I do sincerely consider that the consummation of your faith will be equally disastrous to its votaries, as you presume that whose claims I advocate will be to those who have embraced it.

Very respectfully your obedient servant,

ORSON HYDE.

To the Rev. Joseph Baylee, Birkenhead.

Clifton Park, Birkenhead, Nov. 23rd, 1846.

Sir,—As a divinely appointed teacher and priest of the Christian Church, I am quite ready to meet you in defence of my principles, I therefore beg to declare my readiness to defend the following proposition:—The system of doctrine, sacraments, and discipline laid down in the Book of Common Prayer is in strict accordance, in all its parts, with the Holy Scriptures, and is of soul-saving efficacy. The place of meeting must be in my own parish, the time, whatever may be mutually convenient, and the frequency, as often as you please, with one stipulation, that it must be alternately with your submitting Mormonism to the same test.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

To Mr. Orson Hyde.

JOSEPH BAYLEE.

Liverpool, 26th Nov. 1846.

Sir,—As this investigation has not been sought after by me, neither did the challenge proceed from me but from yourself, I claim the right of choosing the time, place, and mode of warfare; and I think, sir, that you are in honour bound to acknowledge my right, and to allow my claim.

I am ready to defend my religion according to the ability that Heaven may give me whenever its principles, contained in the Bible, Book of Mormon, Book of Doctrine and Covenants, are assailed; for the above books I hold sacred, and equally sacred. The two latter I will lend you at any time previous to the discussion if you have them not already in your possession. The Book of Common Prayer, containing an abstract of your faith, I have. As you consider my religion erroneous or false, you will be at liberty to show its errors or falsehoods from the books themselves which I acknowledge sacred, but from no other source. I also, in turn, will attempt to show the errors and falsehoods contained in your book, which your plighted faith requires you to defend.

You shall have one hour to attack my religion and to show whatever you may consider inconsistent, erroneous, or false, and I will have one hour to reply. Then you can resume your speech for half an hour, and I will follow with a half hour's reply. On the following evening I will attempt to make manifest the errors of your system from your own book and from no other source, and you shall have the same length of time to reply that I have to speak, and thus may the investigation continue till the subject be exhausted. The present popular translation of the Bible being the test and law by which all points shall be determined.

I am not disposed to go into a corner, by-place, or small room, but I have spoken for the Music Hall, in this town—a place well suited to accommodate the public, and also worthy of either of us, and of the congregation that may attend. In that place I am willing to meet you with one chairman of my own choice, one of yours, and a third, chosen by these two from the Roman Catholic Church; he may be either a minister, or an intelligent, well read layman. If a gentleman from that church has any prejudice, that prejudice will be equal against us both, and, consequently, equivalent to no prejudice at all; moreover, the Roman Catholics are a very numerous and learned body, particularly their ministers, and they may be considered every way qualified to decide the merits of a controversy of this kind, particularly when associated with two of our personal friends.

If you accept the above conditions, I wish only time to procure a phonographic writer from Scotland, to note the speeches for publication; when this is done, I shall be ready to wait upon you at the Music Hall. If you subscribe thereto, or agree to meet me upon these conditions, please give me early notice, and I will appoint the time so soon as I get my reporter. I will take the responsibility of placarding the town, and of the expenses of the meeting.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

To the Rev. Mr. Baylee, Birkenhead.

ORSON HYDE.

To this our last, we have received no reply, but have understood through a private channel, but with how much truth we cannot say, that the Rev. Gentleman is resolved to expose the alleged corruptions of our religion in a pamphlet, if we refuse to meet him in his own parish. Under existing circumstances we think that our